

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 BIB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6048

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, XF

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S ME TRIP

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

REFERENCE: MOSCOW 0326

1. DURING A LOCAL MOSCOW LECTURE ON INTERNATIONAL TOPICS
JANUARY 8 (REFTEL) A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE ASKED THE
SPEAKER WHY BREZHNEV'S TRIP TO EGYPT HAD BEEN POSTPONED.
LECTURER INITIALLY DISSEMBLED BY POINTING OUT THAT "TWO
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IMPORTANT EGYPTIAN MINISTERS" HAD RECENTLY VISITED AND

THAT VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL AS REFLECTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE AND SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS MADE. WHEN QUESTIONER PRESSED BY NOTING THAT SADAT HAD STATED HE "UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR THE POSTPONEMENT," LECTURER MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL IMPORTANT EXISTING PROBLEMS SUCH AS "SUEZ CANAL, THE PALESTINIANS AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE BENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE."

2. THE LECTURER'S STRESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ME PEACE CONFERENCE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SOVIETS' CONTINUING STRONG PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO PUSH FOR RENEWAL OF THE MEPC. RECENT IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY BY V. MATVEYEV (JANUARY 7) KEPT UP THE PRESS' CONTRIBUTION BY ASSERTING THAT REGARD FOR THE MEPC CONSTITUTES AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR FOR ASSESSING THE SINCERITY OF ANY STATEMENTS OR DECLARATIONS IN SUPPORT OF A PEACEFUL ME SETTLEMENT. MATVEYEV, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, CONCLUDED THAT ONLY THOSE WHO OPENLY OR BEHIND THE SCENES WOULD LIKE TO LEAD AFFAIRS NOT TO PEACE BUT TO A NEW DANGEROUS COMPLICATING OF THE ME SITUATION CAN OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OF THE MEPC'S WORK. WE CONTINUE TO SEE THIS LINE AS DIRECTED AT EGYPT AS WELL AS AT ISRAEL AND THE U.S.
STOESSEL

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